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WHEELING, W. VA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

The Weather  
Snow in north, snow or rain in south  
portion Friday; Saturday probably  
fair.

PRICE—TWO CENTS

## NO THREAT THAT U. S. WILL ENTER THE WAR

### STATEMENT OF LANSING WAS BOTH MISCONSTRUED AND EXAGGERATED

REGARDING THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE NOTE SENT BY PRESIDENT WILSON—FIRST STATEMENT CAUSED CONSTERNATION IN OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AND BROUGHT FORTH SECOND STATEMENT GIVING THE REAL POSITION OF UNITED STATES—NO EFFORT TO FORCE PEACE ON EUROPE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—President Wilson's note to the belligerents urging discussion of peace was officially interpreted today as not bearing any threat that the United States might be forced to enter the war because of the continued invasion of its rights by the warring powers on both sides.

This interpretation was made late today by Secretary Lansing in a formal statement issued to the press. It was characterized as widespread misconception placed on one given out earlier in the day, saying that because of the increasingly critical position of the United States as a neutral it was entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that it might regulate its conduct for the future.

Secretary Lansing's final statement, formally prepared and issued after he had been called to the White House for a conference with President Wilson, declared that he had not intended to intimate that the United States was considering any change in its policy of neutrality and that the tone and language of the note were sufficient to indicate its purpose without further comment on his part.

Mr. Lansing's first statement, made orally and of which no official copy was distributed, led to exaggerations of its language and purpose through official Washington. Its most striking phrases on which the widest speculation was based were that the United States was "drawing near the verge of war" and that the sending of the note "will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war" and that neither he or President Wilson regarded the note "as a peace note." Secretary Lansing's first statement was as follows:

The reason for the sending of the note was as follows:

"It isn't our material interest in war, but more and more our own rights are becoming involved by the belligerents on both sides, so that the situation is becoming increasingly critical.

"I mean by that, that we are drawing nearer the verge of war ourselves and therefore we are entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that we may regulate our conduct accordingly."

No consideration of the German overtures or of the speech of Lloyd George was taken into account in the formation of the document. The only thing the overtures did was to delay the decision. It was not decided to send it until Monday. Of course, the difficulties that face the President were that it might be construed as a movement toward peace and in the German overtures, the specifically denies that that was the fact in the document itself."

When word of what the Secretary of State had said spread throughout the capital, it created the greatest consternation in official circles and among the foreign diplomats, many of whom were calling at the State Department to receive their copies of the note dispatched to their capitals.

It became apparent that the secretary's statement was not fully approved at the White House and that there was question as to the wisdom of making any comment that might be regarded as an addition to the note. The White House was concerned lest any word reach the foreign capitals to be construed as indicating that the American note was anything but what it indicated on its face. So, after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, the statement was formally prepared and distributed at the State Department. It follows:

The Second Statement.

"I have learned from several quarters that a wrong impression was made by the statement which I made this morning, and I wish to correct that impression.

"My intention was to suggest the wide direct and necessary interest which this country as one of the neutral nations has in the possible terms which the belligerents may have in mind, and I did not intend to intimate that the government was considering any change in its policy of neutrality which it has consistently pursued in the face of constantly increasing difficulties.

"I regret that my words were open to any other construction as I now realize that they were. I think that the whole tone and language of the note to the belligerents show the purpose without further comment on my part. It is needless to add that I am unreservedly in support of that purpose and hope to see it accomplished."

Comment Reserved.

At the White House no comment whatever was made on the note itself, nor on the two statements by Secretary Lansing.

The German embassy gave no outward expression of concern over the sudden developments.

Entente diplomats, at first at an utter loss how to handle the unexpected situation, became convinced that a change in the attitude of the United States proved that their fear of a move favorable to Germany was not contemplated, and that this country would not try to force peace on Europe. Their great growth and the peace proposals go through now, a period of ruthlessness and retaliation may set in on both sides which will action.

It is indicated, therefore, that the Allies will advise their governments to view the note in a friendly light.

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### LATEST PICTURE OF QUEEN OF ROUMANIA.



This is the latest photograph of Queen Marie of Roumania, who with her king and royal family, has been driven from her home by the German invasion of Roumania and capture of Bucharest. Further progress by the Germans in Roumania may drive the Roumanian royal family into exile in Russia.

### ROMANS DRIVE TEUTONS BACK MAKE A SUCCESSFUL STAND IN DOBRUDJA

In Rumania Proper Teutons Advancing Unchecked—Artillery Duels in West.

In the Dobrudja region of Rumania, where the Russo-Rumanian forces have turned upon the invaders, the Teutonic Allies have been driven from heights in the region of Balabanica and Dechikl, and the Russians and Rumanians now are disputing with them in a violent battle the possession of other positions along this line. In Rumania proper the Teutons are advancing along both sides of the Insu-Racovitza road, but are meeting with steadily increasing resistance. The capture of four officers and the capture of the Piritza-Stankuca front the Teutonic Allies have pushed back the advance guard of the defenders.

Except for the battles in Rumania, in the Carpathians southeast of the Kimpulung-Jacobeni railway, where the Russians have captured several heights, and at various points on the Russian front where attacks by the Russians have been repulsed by the Teutonic infantry activity is being displayed.

The artillery duels have been spirited at various points along the French front. Berlin reports a raid by Germans on British trenches near Arras, but later were ejected. On the Verdun sector, where the French made a notable advance last week the Germans have violently bombarded the Louve-Mon-Vaux front.

Snow and rain are falling in Macedonia, and aside from an engagement in the Cerna river bend region no infantry fighting has taken place in this sector. Berlin reports that the Teutonic Allies have held heights east of Paravolo against strong Russian attacks.

In Mesopotamia the British report successful bombardments of Turkish river craft and land positions in the region of Kut-el-Amara.

London, Dec. 21, 2:59 p. m.—The new note of the Entente Allies to Greece, which according to the understanding here was presented today, contains, says Reuters, Telegram company, the following pertinent demands:

"First, the control of telegraphs, posts and railways; release of all Greek prisoners; the prohibition of meetings of reservists and an inquiry by a mixed commission into the disturbances of December 12."

Further Hearings in News Print Probe

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Further hearings for all interests concerned probably will be held before the federal trade commission concludes its investigation of the news print paper industry. It was made clear today that the investigation, ordered by congress, is by no means considered completed, and that even if the paper distribution plan now being attempted is successful, there are other points to be cleared up.

Consideration of the distribution plan may develop, it was pointed out, that no actual shortage exists. Trade commission officials have declined to say what will become of the manufacturers' offer to sell under the distribution plan to small publishers at the average contract price charged the big companies if it is shown there is no shortage and that the distribution plan is unnecessary.

### CONFIRM SALE OF WEST INDIES FINAL ACTION TAKEN BY DANISH PARLIAMENT

Way Now Open for Exchange of Ratifications—Possess Strategic Value.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21, via London, 7:15 p. m.—Both houses of the Danish parliament now have approved the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The Landsting or upper house, voted favorably upon the proposition today 40 to 19. The bill for ratification of the treaty providing for the sale was adopted by the Folkething yesterday.

Exchange Ratifications.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Approval of Denmark's parliament of the treaty for the sale of the Danish West Indies will acquire the Danish West Indies upon the way for a prompt exchange of ratifications between the two governments, and consummation of negotiations that have been in progress in earnest since the Civil War. The United States Senate has already given its approval and as soon as the formal exchanges have taken place the administration will press measures in Congress appropriating the purchase price, \$25,000,000, and providing for the institution of an American territorial government on the islands.

American National strategists for years have regarded possession of this little archipelago, lying fifty miles east of Porto Rico, as absolutely necessary to prevent any European power from acquiring it and moreover to establish there a great naval base and coaling station for the United States fleet. Commercially the islands are regarded as of comparatively little value. There are three of them, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix, and on their 142 square miles live some 33,000 people, nineteen of whom are negroes employed on sugar cane plantations.

Foreign interference having been credited with upsetting at least once in the past plans for acquiring the islands, negotiations this time were conducted with the utmost secrecy.

Eight Injured in C. & O. Derailment

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Dec. 21.—Eight persons were injured today when two coaches and a parlor car of a Chesapeake & Ohio train were derailed on the Greenbrier district, two miles east of Marlinton, W. Va. All the injured were taken to the hospital in Marlinton.

The time has come when the advantages of releasing these men far outweigh the risk, and I have so advised the government. Steps, therefore, were taken today to proceed, with the least possible delay, to return the interned prisoners to their homes."

According to the statement of the Secretary for Home Affairs in the House of Commons last October, there were 576 Irishmen interned in connection with the recent rebellion.

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—Forecast: Ohio—Snow Friday; cold in east; Saturday generally fair; snow, colder Friday; Saturday probably fair.

Western Pennsylvania—Snow in north, snow or rain in south portion Friday; Saturday probably fair.

### FRAME MILITARY TRAINING BILL WILL BE COMPLETED INSIDE OF MONTH

And Will Then Be Sent to Congress—General Scott Closely Questioned.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A definite plan for universal military training will be laid before Congress next month in the shape of a bill formulated by the general staff of the army, accompanied by complete estimates of cost as compared to the present volunteer system. Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, told the House Military Committee today that the work was in progress and would require about a month to complete. Chairman Duff said the committee would be glad to see the bill.

General Scott was subjected to sharp cross examination today on his reiterated recommendation for a universal service measure based on results of the volunteer system, as shown in the mobilization of the National Guard for border service. Five of the twenty-two members of the committee took occasion to assert their belief in the theory of universal service, while two emphatically declared against such a system.

Those favoring were Representatives Kahn, Greene of Vermont and Tilson of Connecticut, Republicans, and Oney of Massachusetts and Farley of New York, Democrats, while those opposed were Representatives McKellar of Tennessee and Quinn of Mississippi, Democrats.

The statement of Representative Tilson, himself a Colonel in the National Guard, followed General Scott's repeated assertion that the federalization of the National Guard, accomplished as far as possible by the national defense act would not meet the country's military needs.

Many members said a majority of the National Guardsmen who come back from the border are in favor of universal service" declared the chief of staff.

"I agree with you," Representative Tilson said, "that voluntary military service is not an adequate system and probably would break down in time of war as it has done before. The National Guardsmen who come back from the border are in favor of universal service" declared the chief of staff.

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### PUSH AMENDMENT FOR PROHIBITION FRIENDS IN CONGRESS TO PRESS FOR A VOTE

Senate Committee to Report Amendment Favorably—Will Be Defeated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Immediately after the holidays advocates of prohibition in Congress plan to carry on a vigorous campaign for the proposed Federal constitutional amendment, and to exert every possible effort to get a vote on it at this session in spite of the general belief that it will be beaten.

The Senate's judiciary committee's action today, in voting to report the amendment with a recommendation for its passage, opened the way for the resolution in both houses, the House Judiciary Committee having taken similar action two weeks ago.

In the House it is proposed to appeal soon after the Christmas recess to the Rules Committee for a special rule to bring the resolution before the House for a vote within a prescribed time. Champions of the resolution in the Senate can resort to no such parliamentary expedients, and must take their chance of getting the amendment ahead of other legislation.

The Senate Committee amended the wording of the resolution but its effect is unchanged and would prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of liquor for beverage purposes in the United States.

Even the most ardent advocates of the amendment do not anticipate having it passed today. It is expected that a two-thirds majority of both houses is required. But they do expect an increased majority for the amendment in both houses, and ultimate victory in the Sixty-Fifth Congress is their hope.

The District of Columbia prohibition bill will be voted on in the Senate January 9. Another measure to bar liquor advertising from the mails in prohibition states was favorably reported today from the Senate Postoffice Committee.

### EIGHT RAILROADS ARE NOT PLAYING FAIR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In line with its announced policy of bringing before the bar of public opinion the railroads which do not co-operate in car service of the American Railway Association announced tonight that eight roads had failed to carry out recommended redistribution measures. The announcement expresses a hope "that these lines will at once show a marked improvement in their performance."

The roads named are: The Boston and Albany, the Maine Central, the Lehigh Valley, the Philadelphia and Reading, the New York Central, the Michigan Central, the Washash and Toledo and Ohio Central.

"It is clearly apparent," says the announcement, "that these companies, having an excess of box car equipment, have not complied with the request of the commission on car service to deliver a designated excess of box cars to Southern and Western connections above the number of box cars received from such connections."

Several other roads, it was said, appeared to have been derelict in complying with requests for box car redistribution, but the information regarding them was not complete. That a number of roads had not shown the desired improvement in aiding redistribution of coal cars, but that factors other than the good will of the roads themselves had entered into that situation.

### TWO AUTOS STOLEN IN WASHINGTON, PA.

Special Branch of the Intelligence. WASHINGTON, Pa., Dec. 21.—Police of neighboring cities have been notified to watch for two men alleged to have stolen two five passenger Ford automobiles here tonight. The thefts were made during the early part of the evening, the securing both machines in the heart of the business section. The cars were owned by Dr. M. J. Brannen, of Washington, Pa., and W. A. Gray, of Chambersburg. The former bore Pennsylvania license No. 225,086, and the latter No. 54,879. Shortly after 11:30 o'clock tonight thieves forced entrance into an Italian restaurant, Chestnut street, and secured several boxes of candy. It is not thought that anything else of value is missing. It is believed that the men who entered the restaurant committed the auto robbery.

### ARGUMENTS MADE IN BENWOOD WATER CASE

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 21.—Arguments were made today before Public Service Commissioner on the petition of the Benwood Water Company, which seeks permission to advance the rates charged to consumers. The evidence in this case was heard by President E. F. Morgan of the commission at Wheeling some time ago.

It was not announced whether the company's counsel will file briefs. Counsel appeared before the commission representing the city of Benwood and the city of McMechen as well as the company.

KINNEY WINS OUT.

BRAZIL, Ind., Dec. 21.—The United Mine Workers of America, District No. 8 (the black coal district of Indiana), has elected James Kinney, of Perth, president, and James Foster, of Perth, vice-president. The contest between Edward Haverkamp, of Brazil, and Ira Stoner, of Diamond, for secretary-treasurer, is so close that the official count will determine the winner.

FAIR SHORTAGE RELIEVED.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., Dec. 21.—Following a drop in temperature that relieved the shortage of natural gas, factories of the Fairmont district resumed operations today after a week's suspension.

### WILSON'S NOTE WAS A SURPRISE

LONDON ADMITS IT WAS UNEXPECTED Official Silence Maintained and Text Will Be Published in Papers Today.

LONDON, Dec. 21, 10:30 a. m.—In Berlin diplomatic circles, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam, it is understood that the German Emperor will at an early date summon to headquarters the American Ambassador, James W. Gerard, with the view to discussing with him possible American mediation and action.

LONDON, Dec. 21 (11:28 p. m.)—Absolute and startling surprise was the first feeling in Great Britain aroused by President Wilson's note. The government was surprised, and frankly admitted so. The members of parliament were equally surprised, when the news spread through both houses during the afternoon session.

The newspapers, however, surprised and undoubtedly the public will be equally surprised when they read Ambassador Page's statement to the foreign office in the morning papers. All information from America in the last few days, both in despatches from the usually best informed Washington correspondents and in advices to the banking and business firms, has said that the president had no intention of taking any steps toward peace or making any move in European affairs. When he transmitted Germany's note to Great Britain without comment, it was assumed that this action represented his general attitude toward the European situation.

Most of the newspapers commented upon this course with satisfaction. The tenor of their comments tomorrow will be that President Wilson's speech and the speeches of the Russian, French and Italian statesmen have affirmed the entente allies' position and that unless the German government gives notice of the nature of the proposals which it would bring to a conference the allies cannot accept the invitation to sit around an European council table for a discussion of its terms.

Official Silence.

In government circles official silence is observed regarding President Wilson's note suggesting an exchange of views among the belligerents, which will be given out for publication in Friday morning's newspapers. It is expected that this delay in publication is due in part to the adequate surprise caused by the receipt of the note which was altogether unexpected, and in part to a desire to admit of its simultaneous publication in all the English language newspapers.

While it cannot be said that the note was received with anything resembling a feeling of resentment, the Associated Press is enabled to say that its sudden and unexpected receipt puzzled official circles and that it was not so close upon the heels of the German

(Continued on Page Nine.)

### \$2,500,000 PLEDGED FOR RELIEF OF JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Nearly \$2,500,000 for the relief of Jewish war sufferers in Europe was pledged at a great mass meeting of Carnegie Hall tonight. Jacob H. Schiff, of this city and Julius S. Rosenberg, of Chicago, headed the list with \$100,000 each. A total of \$466,875 was subscribed by forty persons.

The meeting was the first step in a campaign undertaken by the American Jewish Relief Committee and the People's Relief Committee to raise \$10,000,000 for war relief measures in 1917. The subscription received tonight came not only from New York but all parts of the country.

Thousands of Jews who had not been supplied with tickets surrounded the hall before the doors were opened. Rich and poor, old and young, struggled for admission. Prosperous business men rubbed shoulders with struggling immigrants who had brought their families to learn what they could do to aid the homeless and starving in their own country. A man and a girl who had toiled all day in shops and stores went dinnerless that they might be on hand early.

### PARRAL ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY VILLA

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 21.—Five Americans and one other foreigner who arrived here today from Parral by way of Torreon reported Torreon about to be attacked by Villa forces.

Alexander Rieand, the French citizen who was reported to have been killed by Villa followers in Parral, still was missing when the refugees left that town, one of the Americans of the party said today.

Additional details of the killing of Howard Gray of Weeks, the American mining man at Parral, while Gray was eating supper, later going into convulsions in the chambers of President United States circuit Judge William H. Hunt. He was removed to a hospital.

Attorney John B. Wilson, of this city, special agent for the United States department of justice, when questioned as to whether or not an investigation had been in this city regarding the alleged conspiracy in which Franz Bopp is alleged to have been implicated, told the Intelligencer that such an investigation had been made in this city, but that he was not at liberty to disclose any part of the nature of the investigation or of its result.

### WHEELING BOY FAINTS ON WITNESS STAND

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—Franz Bopp, German consul-general in San Francisco, today in his own behalf today in the government's suit alleging conspiracy on the part of the German consular officials to hinder and destroy munitions shipments to the Entente Allies. Bopp and six others are under indictment, including Louis J. Smith, the government's chief witness.

Bopp, who was on the stand but a short time, conceded that vice consul E. H. Von Schack had employed C. C. Crowley, a detective and Smith, a former dynamite factory hand, during Bopp's absence in the early months of the war. He insisted, however, the two were engaged as confidential agents to furnish evidence of Entente violations of American neutrality and not to place bombs in enemy ships, trains and tunnels.

Bopp's testimony followed the sudden fainting in court of Alonzo Smith, of Wheeling, W. Va., a nephew of Louis J. Smith, who had testified that Smith had boasted of having expected to receive \$20,000 from the United States government for his testimony. The lad completed his brief bit of evidence and then let his head fall on his chest, later going into convulsions in the chambers of President United States circuit Judge William H. Hunt. He was removed to a hospital.

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### High Power Wireless Station for Porto Rico

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Secretary Daniels asked Congress today for \$400,000 for a high power wireless station in Porto Rico.

Mr. Daniels said the island is of extreme strategic importance, in connection with the fleet operations, due to its location, and that a wireless communication would be insured with the fleet, with Europe and with South America to a greater degree than by any other means.

### EVIDENCE FOUND OF COAL CONSPIRACY

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—That there are grounds for the suspicion that the recent increase in the price of coal was the result of an "artificial and illegal combination" was the statement made here today by George W. Anderson, federal district attorney at Boston, who is in charge of the government's national fuel and food inquiry.